

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 684

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor Joe Dietz upon the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor a remarkable professional who has rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, known far and wide as The World's Greatest Horse Show, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2008, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting a select group of worthy individuals into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration Grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who, "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during, "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2008 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes Joe Dietz, of New Castle, Indiana, who is a long-time owner of many successful horses, including the legendary World Grand Champion Tennessee Walking Horse, The Pusher; and

WHEREAS, a native of Kentucky, Joe Dietz's involvement with the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry started in 1970, when he showed Scatman's Kitty Cat at The Celebration; in 1971, he put his horses in training with Bob McQuerry for thirty-six illustrious years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dietz experienced a string of wins with Reve's Little Boy capturing the 1975, 1976, and 1977 World and World Grand Champion Pony Fourteen-and-Under; he retired the coveted Eddie Wiser Memorial trophy; and

WHEREAS, Joe Dietz's legendary horses include Ebony's Go Go Girl, who won the World and Grand Champion Junior Fifteen to Seventeen years, Eb's Moonlight Lady, trained by John Hurnley, who was a World Champion Amateur Mare, and Rave, the 1994 World and World Grand Champion Two-Year-Old; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dietz's most memorable victory undoubtedly occurred in 1979, when his legendary horse, The Pusher was named both the Amateur World and Grand Champion. This tremendous horse would return to Shelbyville to pick up the Reserve World Champion title in 1980 and the World Grand Champion prize in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Joe Dietz has lent his professional talents and leadership abilities to the TWHA, serving as past president or board member for a remarkable forty years; in addition, he has been a member of the Kentucky TWHA for over thirty-five years and been a member of the Kentucky TWHA Board; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades, Mr. Dietz was inducted into the Kentucky Hall of Fame Walking Horse Owners Association in 2006; and

WHEREAS, by means of his induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Joe Dietz has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay homage to his life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby acknowledge and applaud Joe Dietz on the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, congratulate

him on his many notable wins as an owner, and commend him for his sterling service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.